

Focus on Freight– Nov/Dec 2008

A Freight Newsletter for the National Capital Region



Freight Subcommittee Meeting Our next Freight Subcommittee Meeting will take place on January 15, 2009 at the COG building Room 3 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Agenda details and directions will be sent out closer to the time of the meeting. In the meantime, TPB staff continues to develop the *Integrating Freight into the 2010 Constrained Long-Range Plan* report and welcomes your comments. E-mail Karin Foster at kfoster@mwcog.org.

Upcoming Freight-related Agenda Items

—December 4, 2008: Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to hold a State Freight Plan Outreach Meeting at MWCOCG. MDOT seeks to solicit input from stakeholders about state freight issues and future needs. The input will be of great value in the development of the State Freight Plan. The meeting will be held in Room 3 from 2pm to 4pm. [MDOT Freight Plan Outreach Mtg.](#)

—December 12, 2008: Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals Meeting— “Going Lean in a Tough Economy” by Guest Speaker Rob Williams, Logistics Manager, Sprint Nextel. For more information or to register go to [CSCMP event.](#)

Transportation in an Obama Administration

President-elect Obama’s Transportation Review Team posted on their Web Site “Too many of our nation’s railways, highways, bridges, airports, and neighborhood streets are slowly decaying do to lack of investment and strategic long-term planning.” The Obama administration plans on making increased transportation infrastructure investment a top priority. A key problem is that the financing system is about to collapse. The Highway Trust Fund generates about \$50 billion annually for road, bridge, and transit projects. The fund dates from 1956 and relies on the federal gasoline tax, which has not been increased by Congress in 15 years and it is not indexed to inflation. President-elect Obama will need to act quickly, making decisions on whether to raise the gas tax, expand the toll network, increase public-private partnerships, or to establish congestion pricing in order to keep the fund solvent and transportation moving.

Washington Post, [*For New Transportation Secretary, a Hard Road Ahead*](#)



Happy Holidays

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB)

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